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Thesis On Examination
Of The Sick

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Examination Of The Sick
Upon the application
of a sick person to
a medical man the
first object of the latter
should be to ascertain
the correct nature of the
malady for which he
is consulted

It is not uncommon
that the patient suffers
embarrassment from
the peculiar nature of
his disease

The physician should
not make a direct
examination until
he has cause to believe

his patient is the least
excited from his
surroundings

He must be very careful
in our examinations
for there are so many dan-
gerous instances which tend to
wrap the difficulty in
mystery and obscure
another most plain and
comprehensible case

But the good Physician
will be equal to ~~the~~ emerg-
ency and he can by his
plain and familiar
manners cause his
patient to be reconciled

which will needly
be sent by any one
who is human and
kind. He may now make
a few remarks on
general subjects

inquires as to his
place of residence
and the length of time
he has been sick here
he contracted his illness

These general questions
will assist us very much
in forming a correct
conclusion in regard
to our patients sufferings
After these preparatory
remarks we should

take a glance at his
physiognomy form of
his head and face the
regularity of his features
and general form of body

From close observation we
may be able to judge
of his age strength of
body complexion tempera-
ment rank in life
and general health
We are now prepared
to interrogate him
and this should be done
by asking him where he
lives land of his nati-
vity whether he is married or

Single his occupation
and age

After having learned all
we can in regard
to his previous history
our next endeavors should
be to get at the present
He are now prepared to
ask more direct questions
that we may learn the
precise nature of the
disease in question and
they will be made with ref-
erence to his feelings
How he feels if he is where
situated and the length
of time he has had it
nature and duration of

The same he should
give a description of any
peculiar sensation he feels
If he complains of
pain we should know
its peculiarities whether
burning Stinging cutting
tearing or lacerating
The time of day is not to
be overlooked we should
know the time it begins
and when it is worst
whether morning noon
or night

Can the patient sleep
well are his sufferings ag-
gravated by a change of
weather by motion or rest

Cold or heat Right or left
side of the body near
affected direction of the pain
This leads him into a
description of his Sufferings
and the means he has
made use of for their remo-
val

The patient should not be
interrupted but should be
permitted to tell his own
story without interruption
or contradiction for if
once interrupted his Sym-
ptoms will never be
given full and comp-
ete as they otherwise would
have been We should

now make inquiries
after the organs of spe-
cial sense seeing
hearing smelling tasting
and feeling all require
our attention and we must
give the organs an exami-
nation making any departure
from health or perform-
ance of their function
We should now direct our
attention to the different
parts of the body or those
in which the patient feels
pain bearing in mind
that the seat of disease may
be in a remote part
from that in which the

patient seems to suffer
the most pain

The organs of Secretion
are now to be noticed
our attention should be
directed to the character
of the secretions whether
they are too profuse or too
scanty all of which must
be definitely ascertained
Suppose our patient complains
of pain in the head it
will then be our duty to
make an examination
of the cranium as
to its shape prominences and
depressions If he complains
of pain we must know

The nature of it whether
neuralya or rheumatic
presence or absence of vertigo
An examination of the
chest should be had whenever
we are lead to believe or in
any way suspect there is
disease of the heart

We should endeavor to ascer-
tain the presence or absence
of cough the nature and char-
acter of the expectoration and
the facility with which he
expectorates The action of the
heart must be looked after
that we may know whether there
is palpitation or not and this
we do by auscultation percuss

ion or movement
In like manner we should
make an examination
of the abdominal viscera
The liver Stomach Spleen
and urinary organs
undergo a like examination
when we are led to believe
there is any disease located
in them